



Choreographer Karen Kaufmann

Karen Kaufmann is the head of the Dance Program at The University of Montana, where she has taught since 1990. She was awarded the 2009 Distinguished Faculty Award at the School of Fine Arts Commencement Ceremony and was honored with an Individual Fellowship Award from the Montana Arts Council. She also received The University of Montana Service Award for her service and outreach in dance education.

Recently Kaufmann launched the Montana Model Dance in Education Project (MoDE), providing qualified dance teachers for Montana public schools. She is also the recipient of a National Dance Association Artist/Scholar Award in 2011. Her work has also been featured in *Dance Teacher* magazine.

Describing her as a “true Renaissance woman,” application reviewers praised the innovative choreography Kaufmann has developed for five large-scale works performed in hundreds of Montana schools for tens of thousands of children. The performances blend dance artistry with a curricular theme (i.e. Newton’s Laws of Motion and mathematics or forest ecology and traditional Native American uses of fire). Her latest work, done through the CoMotion Dance Project she created, focuses on the use of dance to explore the science of fire in our forests.